

***Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes***  
***June 22, 2020***  
***Virtual Meeting***

**Present:** Mrs. Leah Miller, Mrs. Ruth Lynch, Mrs. Kimberly Booker, Mr. John Geary and Mrs. Libby Corbo

**Also Present:** Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives and Keith Guyette

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Mrs. Miller

**Public Comment:**

**Approval Minutes:**

**Report of the Superintendent presented by Mr. Ferron:**

- **Events and Updates** – Mr. Ferron started by letting the community know about the passing of Mr. Don Ronchetti this morning after battling health issues for several years. He had an impact on thousands of students during his 16 years in Hanover. More information regarding his services would be forthcoming in the days ahead. Mr. Ferron said we are grateful for his services and he will be greatly missed.

**Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Thomas Raab:**

- **FY '21 Budget Update** – Mr. Ferron and Dr. Raab presented an updated budget and apologized to the Committee for not being able to share all of the information ahead of the meeting, as there are several moving parts. Dr. Raab reviewed the FY '21 budget changes and updates, including that the AdComm has recommended an additional \$473,522.00 in free cash, for a total of \$873,552.00 to help balance the budget. He noted that they are still waiting on updates on state and federal funding, such as circuit breaker and chapter 70 funding and that will come later in the summer. Mr. Ferron stated that they started recalling their first round of teachers last week and round two will begin tomorrow, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. He noted that they have looked at the budget and assessed their risk tolerance and they are comfortable with bringing back 12 additional teachers and 8 support staff. He noted that he is grateful for everyone's patience and understanding throughout this process. Mr. Ferron said there are still many unknowns, but they are more comfortable now than two weeks ago. He also noted that in the weeks ahead we would begin preparing for September as the guidance from the DESE comes out and will be working very hard to make sure we get it right. Mr. Ferron stated that over the summer, he hopes to set up some Town Hall style meetings to get feedback from the community as we get closer to September. Mr. Ferron thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee for their collaboration throughout the process, this was something that no one expected and their support has been extremely important.

Mrs. Miller thanked Administration for their tireless work throughout this process. She noted that they have had only the families and students in mind throughout this process. She reminded the Committee that the budget they would be voting on today is the recommended budget, which will need to be approved at Town Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Booker questioned the DESE guidance not being released on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ferron stated that we are being asked to be flexible throughout this process and that date has been pushed back as they continue to work on the guidance. He's hopeful it will still

provide about 85% of the plan for the districts to create their opening strategy. He's hopeful it will be released in the next few days.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Budget in the amount of \$29,816,940.00 as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Mrs. St. Ives noted there were several thank you comments in the chat of the zoom meeting thanking the Committee and Administration for their work through the process.

A community member passed along their condolences for Mr. Ronchetti and his family.

A community member asked how much more money would be required to bring back the remaining staff that had been laid off. Mr. Ferron stated that all staff will be back as of the call back tomorrow. He stated that those that are not coming back are not due to funding or budget reasons.

Mrs. Miller thanked Mrs. Booker again for her services on the School Committee. She noted there is not a date for our next School Committee meeting, but she believes there will be more frequent meetings this summer than normal to oversee the opening of school in September.

Mr. Ferron thanked all the staff involved in the budget cuts again for their understanding and support through this process and he is so happy to have them all back.

Motion by Lynch to adjourn at 3:54pm. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

**Caitlin Potolicchio**

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Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary